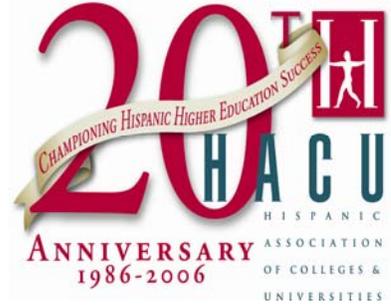


National Headquarters
8415 Datapoint Drive, Ste. 400
San Antonio, TX 78229
210-692-3805 (voice)
210-692-0823 (fax)
Website: www.hacu.net



February 8, 2007

The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I want to express our gratitude and full support for your Senate Bill S. 500 to establish the “Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community.” The proposed Commission will have as its major function the development of a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino Community to be located in Washington, D.C.

The proposed Latino Museum will exhibit and display the richness and diversity of the Latino culture within the United States and the 18 Latin American countries of origin from which Latino people immigrate. Clearly the proposed museum will provide a venue for our nation to learn more about the many Latino groups that make up the fastest-growing and second oldest population in the United States.

Currently the Latino community represents 14% of the U.S. population; by 2050, it is projected to exceed 96 million, 25% of the total U.S. population. The proposed museum will be an important addition to the Smithsonian and other museums in Washington, D.C., that introduce visitors to the nation’s capitol and highlight the contributions of the various peoples living and working in the U.S.

We applaud your foresight and wisdom in introducing this important piece of legislation. We strongly endorse any efforts by Congress to provide appropriate support to institutions through which we can all learn about the many peoples that have made the United States one of the most culturally rich and diverse countries in the world.

We stand ready to assist your leadership in moving S. 500 through the Senate during this Congressional session. Please call upon us and our membership if we can provide any information, testimony or other support to help you win swift passage of this bill celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Antonio R. Flores'.

Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO